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Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 03222 160903 Z

13
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 IO-12 /123 W
---------- 070136
R 160805 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6032
INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3222

EO11652: GDS
TAGS : PING, ID
SUBJ: MPR

REF: A. JAKARTA 3054
B. JAKARTA 2577

SUMMARY: AS PEOPLE' S CONGRESS (MPR) SESSION NEARS END OF FIRST WEEK, IT CONTINUES TO PROCEED AS PLANNED. ONLY CONTROVERSY VISIBLE THUS FAR INVOLVES STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS OF MOSLEMS TO LANGUAGE REGARDING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WHICH APPEARS TO GIVE JAVANESE MYSTICISM (" KEPERCAYAAN") EQUAL PLACE WITH ISLAM. GOLKAR HAS PROPSED RENEWAL OF EMERGENCY POWERS FOR PRESIDENT (WHICH WE KNOW ARE CONTAINED IN DRAFT DECISIONS). END SUMMARY.

1. MPR SESSIONS ARE PROCEEDING LIKE CLOCKWORK WITH NO SURPRISES THUS FAR. SUHARTO AND SULTAN HAVE BEEN FORMALLY NOMINATED BY GOLKAR AND REGIONAL FACTION, FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT RESPECTIVELY, AND ALL OTHER FRACTIONS HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT. BOTH CANDIDATES HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.

2. ONLY MAJOR CONTROVERSY IN SIGHT INVOLVES OBJECTIONS OF MOSLEMS TO LANGUAGE IN NEW STATE GUIDELINES REGARDING
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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, WHICH GIVES " BELIEF" (KEPERCAYAAN) EQUAL WEIGHT WITH " AGAMA"(RELIGION). FERVENT MOSLEMS INTERPRET THIS (CORRECTLY) AS EFFORT BY THEIR TRADITIONAL ANTAGONISTS (WHO ARE NOW EXTREMELY INFLUENTIAL AT TOP LEVELS OF GOI) TO BOOST STATUS OF JAVANESE MYSTICISM.
SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS (INDONESIA RAYA, ABADI) HAVE WEIGHED IN HEAVILY ON THIS EMOTIONAL SUBJECT URGING THAT FORMER (MPRS) 1966 DECISION ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHOULD BE RETAINED AND NOT CANCELLED ASPLANNED AT PRESENT. THERE IS A VERY FAINT CHANCE THAT MOSLEM MEMBERS MIGHT DIG IN AND FIGHT ON THIS ISSUE UNTIL VOTED DOWN. (MPR PROCEDURES PROVIDE FOR MAJORITY VOTING IF CONCENSUS NOT OBTAINABLE.)

3. FAMOUS " SUPER SEMAR" MPRS DECISION OF 1966 WHICH EXTENDED PRESIDENT' S EMERGENCY POWERS EXPIRED WITH FORMATION OF NEW MPR (PARA 6 OF REF B IS IN ERROR). GOLKAR MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY PROPOSED THAT SUPER SEMAR POWERS BE CONTINUED IN SOME FORM. COPY OF DRAFT DECISIONS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES THAT FULL EMERGENCY POWERS ARE IN FACT CONTAINED IN SECTION SEPARATE FROM STATE GUIDELINES, WHICH DEFINES AUTHORITY CONFERRED ON PRESIDENT TO CARRY OUT DECISIONS OF MPR, INCLUDING POWER " TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS THAT ARE NEEDED TO SAFEGUARD THE UNITY ANDINTEGRITY OF THE NATION AND PREVENT THE REPETITION OF G-30- S/ PKI AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE DANGER..." COMMENT: IN OTHER WORDS, CARTE BLANCHE.
GALBRAITH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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